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All communications of every character should be addressed to THE FREE LANCE, Fredericksburg, Va.
Subscription \$1.50 Per Year, in Advance.
SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1904.
NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PANAMA REVOLUTION.

The Louisville Herald has been looking back over our past history and comparing our present status with that of other nations, and has come to the conclusion that our rapid progress and the advanced position we now hold among the nations of the earth is because of our courage and well-developed combativeness. Whether the Herald is altogether right in its conclusions may be doubted by many, but that it makes some strong points in maintaining its position cannot be denied. The Herald starts out with the assertion that the secret of American success is the dauntless courage of our national life. The nation that refuses to fight for its life is sure to lose it. England grew to be the mightiest nation of the earth through three centuries of warfare. England, no longer a fighting nation, is decaying. In Eastern Europe and in the remote East of Asia, she has substituted concession and withdrawal for the resolution and aggression of two centuries. She has lost the trade of China through failure to throw, at the right moment, her immense sea power against Russia.

The European coalition against Japan, in 1896, was formidable. But neither Pitt nor Wellington in the battle for empire ever stopped to count on the strength of women. The arrest of Japanese development after the mikado's victory over China was the beginning of the end of British imperial supremacy. Portugal was, at the beginning of the last century, as remote and as weak, relatively, as Japan; but England, in her defense, faced the great military power which would have destroyed commercial and industrial Britain.

The national courage of America has never, from the beginning, failed to manifest itself. It took courage for thirteen poor, straggling colonies to fight for the right against the most powerful kingdom on earth; courage to face that kingdom a second time; courage to fight Mexico under the power of an unfriendly Europe; courage to suppress the most gigantic revolution ever undertaken against a government; courage to fight against an ancient and powerful sovereignty, enjoying the friendship of the most powerful monarchies on earth. But America never stops to reckon risks when the national life and national right call for a fight.

The Daughters of the Confederacy, of Savannah, Georgia, did themselves no credit in refusing to send a wreath to be placed upon the grave of Gen. Longstreet at his burial. If they could not honor Gen. Longstreet as a Confederate soldier there is no Confederate that they can honor; and they should abandon the cause for which they stand and disband their organization. Gen. Longstreet was a trusted commander of Beauregard and Johnston at the first Manassas. He had the close friendship and confidence of Gen. Johnston while he was commanding the Army of Northern Virginia, and was the intimate friend and trusted commander of Gen. Lee until the Confederate flag was furled at Appomattox. He never forfeited the confidence of Gen. Lee as a soldier and was next to him in command from Seven Pines to Appomattox. He was the idol of the men who followed him, who have never ceased to love him, and no true soldier of his command will endorse the action of the Savannah ladies who endeavored to cast odium upon his memory at his burial. If Gen. Longstreet made mistakes during the war, it was no more than others did; and if he did wrong after the war, which he did not admit, it should not detract from his brilliant record as a Confederate general, now that he is dead. So far from that, we would rejoice to see, and would contribute to the object, a suitable monument erected to his memory by the voluntary contributions of those faithful men who followed him to the close of the war, and who will ever cherish his memory.

Mr. Olney thinks Cleveland is the man for the Democrats in the next election. He may find it difficult to make the Democratic masses who do the voting think so, and it would be well for the leaders to consult the voters.

It is said that a man who was worth \$370,000 fifty years ago was relatively wealthier than the man today who owns five millions. Fifty years ago we had few millionaires, while today we have hundreds of them.

The country will sympathize with ex-President and Mrs. Cleveland in the death of their lovely daughter Ruth, who has fallen a victim of diphtheria. She was twelve years of age and the bright sunshine of the home.

The Senate Committee reports in favor of the confirmation of General Wood. The president will, no doubt, smile over this hard-fought victory.

Where Information Can Be Obtained. President Roosevelt, in his annual message, stated that for the last fiscal year there had been 25,566 persons appointed through competitive examinations under Civil Service rules. This was 12,672 more than for any previous year, and forty per cent of all who passed the examinations. There will be a Post Office examination in this city the first Wednesday or Saturday after May 1. There will be examinations in several places in the city for Railway Mail Clerks, Stenographers, and many other positions during March and April. The Columbia Correspondence College of Washington, D. C., has issued an announcement giving the dates and places for holding examinations, the age limits, physical qualifications, education required, and full information about the various positions in the Government Civil Service, and it will be sent free to all who write for it.

The new chaplain of the United States Senate appeared in his robe Monday morning, when he opened the session with prayer. This is something new in that body.

OUR NATIONAL LIFE.
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WILL TEST CONSTITUTION.
CARLISLE AND WISE TO ARGUE CASE FOR NEGROES AT RICHMOND.
Governor and Members of the Constitutional Convention Are Made The Defendants.
The hearing of the test case involving the new constitution of Virginia, under which practically nearly all the negroes of the state were disfranchised, will take place in Richmond Monday, when former Secretary of the Treasury John G. Carlisle, assisted by John S. Wise of New York, will appear in the United States Circuit Court to argue against the constitutionality of the new organic law. Attorney General W. A. Anderson and F. W. Christian will appear for the state, and Circuit Judge Edmund Wallkill will preside.

The case was transferred to Richmond from Norfolk, where it was instituted soon after the new constitution was proclaimed, by Capt. Wise and James H. Hayes, a negro lawyer. A number of the negroes of the state, who were not allowed to register under the clause of the constitution which provides that in order to qualify to vote they shall be able to understand and explain any portion of the constitution read to them.

Through the efforts of Hayes, the negroes of Virginia and the North have raised a considerable sum to push the case. Another phase of the matter was argued some time ago, before Chief Justice Fuller, sitting as a district judge at Richmond, in which he decided against the constitution.

The petitioners ask damages in the amount of \$5,000 from the governor and forty-five members of the convention which framed the new constitution.

THE EXITS WERE LOCKED.
Iroquois Theatre Manager Testifies That Eleven Were Bolted.
NO FIRE PRECAUTIONS TAKEN
All Managers Plead Ignorance of Any Action Taken to Prevent Loss of Life by Fire—No Operator For Ventilators.
Chicago, Jan. 7.—By their own evidence given before Monroe Fulkerson, who is conducting the fire department investigation into the Iroquois theatre horror, the proprietors of the theatre showed that a worse condition of affairs existed than had heretofore been thought possible.

Will J. Davis, Harry J. Powers and Thomas J. Noonan, active managers of the Iroquois theatre, were examined by Mr. Fulkerson. All of them pleaded ignorance of any precautions taken to prevent loss of life by fire at their theatre. They admitted failure to instruct employees in fighting fire, to install fire extinguishers, to provide suitable appliances for use against flames. Their statements were corroborated by the testimony of 20 employees of the theatre, none of whom had ever been told by its management of fire.

Noonan, who is the working manager of the theatre, under the direction of Davis and Powers, admitted that 11 of the theatre exits were locked and bolted. Two of these exits, leading to the front of the theatre on the ground floor, were locked; three additional exits on the north side of the ground floor were bolted; three exits on the north side of the theatre, and three exits on the north side of the second balcony were bolted.

The greatest loss of life from the fire was in the first and second balconies, where hundreds of people were suffocated through inability to get out or were trampled to death while trying to do so. Had these exits in each balcony been available, according to Mr. Fulkerson, the loss of life must have been greatly diminished.

Noonan declared that no person had been named by the theatre management to superintend the operation of the ventilator in case of fire, and in consequence the flames had been permitted to sweep the place instead of seeking a natural outlet through the stage roof.

It was said by Noonan that George M. Dusenberry, the head usher; Archibald Bernard, chief electrician, and the theatre engineer knew how to operate the ventilators. It was proven by the evidence of these men, however, that two of them never went upon the stage, and that the other had never been told to assume charge of the ventilators in case of fire. Dusenberry declared that his duty as usher kept him in the front of the house. The engineer was always below the stage attending to his engine, and Bernard, the only one of the three known how to operate the ventilators, who was ever upon the stage during a performance, testified that he had never been told to assume charge of them.

Manager Noonan declared that the two balconies, including seats and people standing, held 889 people. Only three persons were killed on the first floor. This would make, according to Manager Noonan's statement, 886 deaths out of 889 people in the two balconies.

Fifteen other witnesses who had worked on the stage declared that they had never received any orders from the management as to what they should do in case of fire. There was never a fire drill in the theatre, and none of the stage hands was ever informed as to the location or use of fire appliances or the operation of the ventilators over the auditorium and stage.

That the employees in the front of the house were thrown into a panic by the fire was shown by the testimony of all the stage hands examined. Two ushers, each 16 years of age, declared that they ran on the first alarm of fire and did not return to the theatre until the next day. The stage hands said they all sought safety on hearing that the place was on fire.

SEVENTEEN DIE IN TRAIN CRASH.
Rock Island Express and Cattle Train Wrecked By Carelessness.
Topeka, Kan., Jan. 7.—Seventeen persons were killed and 37 injured in the Rock Island passenger wreck at Willard, Most of the injured are in hospitals in Topeka. The doctors announce that all will recover with the exception of Mrs. M. A. Hill, of Greensburg, Kan.

It is thought that carelessness of trainmen caused the wreck. Instructed to meet a special cattle train at Willard, the engineer and conductor of the ill-fated passenger, noting that a freight train stood on the side track at Willard, rushed through, thinking that the cars they had seen were those which they had been instructed to pass.

Upon seeing at Willard a freight train on the siding Engineer Benjamin threw open the throttle and under the impetus of full steam the passenger train leaped into the darkness and crashed along at a rate which the passengers declare to have been fully 55 miles an hour.

Remember our great sale is on. H. Falk & Son.

LEGISLATURE.
HOUSE REFUSES TO ADJOURN.
Legislature Will Probably Remain in Session Until January 12.
A proposition to adjourn Saturday was voted down by the house Wednesday, thus indicating its determination to remain until the session of the new legislature begins January 12.

In the senate a favorable report was made by the committee on insurance, which was recently reappointed. The senate having declined to create the commission, the recommitment was for the purpose of retaining the statutes embodied in the bill.

The senate passed a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of ten, five from each branch, representing each of the geographical grand divisions of the state, to inspect sites for the new State Normal School, to establish which a recommendation is now pending.

The senate passed a bill restoring to sheriffs emoluments allowed them under a law repealed two years ago. Hereafter they are to receive \$2 per day for each day's attendance at the sessions of circuit courts, and allowance for deputies in the discretion of the court, not to exceed \$2 daily.

The bill exempting undertakers from jury service was passed.

LEAKE BILL DEFEATED.
County Treasurer Bills Passed by Both Houses—Public Roads Bill.

The senate defeated the bill requiring grand juries hereafter to investigate all elections, primaries, and conventions. The bill was designed as an adjunct to the Barksdale pure election law.

Its defeat was accomplished by Senator McIlwaine, of Petersburg, who offered an amendment requiring all candidates in elections to appear and testify before grand juries. This aroused a storm of protest, and the bill, as a whole, was pronounced by many a gratuitous insult to the majority of Virginia communities. It was the withdrawal by Mr. McIlwaine, with the statement that his sole object in offering it was to call attention to the absolute absurdity of the measures.

Two companion bills, setting forth the rights and duties of retiring county treasurers, passed both branches. They provide that outgoing officials shall immediately deliver to their successors all books, money, and tax tickets in their possession, but that they shall be allowed one year in which to collect such taxes as they have already accounted for to the auditor.

PUBLIC ROADS BILL REPORT.
The report of the conference committee on points of difference between the two branches of the Emmons bill, designed to improve the public roads of the state and keep them in repair, was defeated, and there will scarcely be any road legislation at this session.

The house agreed to the joint resolution from the senate appointing a committee of five members of each body to select sites for the State Normal School. It is proposed to establish.

VIRGINIA NEWS.
Robert Lear, formerly of Warrenton, died of consumption at Newport News Tuesday.

E. Wells, aged eighty-seven, died at Henricville Thursday. He leaves a wife and large family.

C. A. Heermans, R-publican member of house from Montgomery, slipped on the icy streets in Richmond and broke his leg.

Licensed to marry in Washington: Carl Faveaux and Metta China, both of Loudoun County; Walter L. Rector and Olivia C. Crose, both of Manassas.

Hon. J. Allen Watts, former State Senator and county treasurer for the Norfolk County, died at his home in Roanoke Tuesday, aged 48 years. He was a prominent lawyer.

Wednesday at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gaines, of Culpeper, Miss Susan Gaines became the wife of Mr. Carey Sadell, Rev. E. W. Wisley, pastor of the Baptist church, performed the ceremony.

Stove Exploded.
Mrs. G. D. Savage, of Portsmouth, was seriously injured by the explosion of the waterback of a range in her kitchen. The explosion was terrific. The kitchen was wrecked and the range was blown through the roof.

Death of Ruth Cleveland.
Ruth Cleveland, daughter of former President Grover Cleveland, died at the Cleveland home at Princeton, N. J., Thursday, of diphtheria. Ruth was the eldest child. She was born in New York October, 1891.

H. C. Baker died at his home, near Gordonsville, Wednesday.

STATUE OF DR. M'GUIRE.
Bronze Memorial Unveiled in Capitol Square, Richmond.
Cannon roared, strains of music filled the air and hundreds cheered, Thursday, when the statue of Dr. Hunter Holmes McGuire, Stonewall Jackson's surgeon, was unveiled in the Capitol Square in Richmond.

The governor and city officials participated in the exercises, while the military of Richmond, the veterans of Pickett and Lee Camp, and the students and faculty of the University College of Medicine and the Medical College of Virginia were in line.

Grand Commander George L. Christian, of the State Camp of Confederate Veterans, presented the statue, which was received by Gov. Montague. The oration was delivered by Major Holmes Conrad, of Winchester, who served with Dr. McGuire on Jackson's staff. All three paid high tributes to the famous surgeon.

The statue was unveiled by Hunter Holmes McGuire, Jr., Dr. McGuire's grandson. It is of bronze and was designed by William Cooper, of New York. The sum for its erection, \$7,000, was raised principally by Richmond ladies. The memorial is located near the statue of Jackson.

GEN. JOHN B. GORDON DYING.
Suffering From Inflammation of the Stomach and Recovery Hopeless.
Miami, Fla., Jan. 8.—General John B. Gordon, commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans, is dangerously ill at his home, Hiscayne, seven miles north of this city. The attack is similar to what he suffered from some time ago on a railroad train in Mississippi. It is inflammation of the stomach, caused by an acute attack of indigestion, to which he is subject.

A consultation of General Gordon's physicians, reported from his home by telephone, leaves no hope for his recovery.

The following bulletin was issued by the attending physicians:
"General John B. Gordon grew much weaker last evening, but responded to stimulants and has rallied somewhat; is now resting more quietly. Temperature, 104; pulse 116.
"His wife and two sons are with him. His daughters, Mrs. Barton Smith and Mrs. Orton Bishop Brown, have been notified."

General Gordon's condition is very critical. His advanced age (72) and generally depleted strength from previous impaired health causes his physicians to entertain serious fears of the outcome.

"GRAMLIN AND JACKSON."
WORK OF COLD SNAP.
Spinach Crop Around Norfolk Ruined and Other Crops Damaged.
Thousands of dollars of damage has been done to the truck crops of Norfolk County by the cold weather of the past week. The spinach crop, the principal winter revenue producer, is irretrievably ruined, it is feared. Other crops fared as badly.

Accused of Robbing Postoffice.
What may prove an important arrest was made by Deputy United States Marshal Bendit, when he put under arrest Joseph Anderson, charged with robbing the postoffice at West Point. He was committed to jail in Richmond in default of bail, and will be tried January 15. Anderson was recently released after serving a five-year sentence at Atlanta. He is believed to be one of a gang of salaried crackerjack which has been operating in Tidewater districts.

Dr. Dabney Resigns to Go to Cincinnati.
Dr. Charles W. Dabney has resigned as president of the University of Tennessee, to accept the presidency of the University of Cincinnati. The resignation itself came Sept. 1st next, when he will take charge at Cincinnati. His acceptance, it is stated, was conditioned on an income of \$25,000 per annum for the Cincinnati institution.

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JAPAN HAS RUSSIA'S REPLY.
Urgency Meeting of Cabinet Called To Consider It.
London, Jan. 7.—There are two indications that nothing definite has developed in the Far Eastern crisis, and nothing is likely to develop until the end of the week.

The first of these indications, according to the Tokio correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, is that an urgency meeting of the Japanese cabinet has been called for today, and the second is that the members of the British cabinet have been notified to assemble on Saturday.

The meeting of the Japanese cabinet has almost certainly been called for the purpose of considering the reply of Russia to the last Japanese note, and it is equally certain that the meeting of the British cabinet will be for the purpose of discussing the attitude of Great Britain in the light of the Russian reply.

RUSSIANS LAND IN COREA.
Japanese Railway Refuses to Transport Legation Guard to Seoul.
Seoul, Jan. 7.—A Russian legation guard of 39 has been landed at Champo, but the Japanese railway has refused to transport it to Seoul. It is reported preparations have been made for the emperor of Korea to find an asylum in the French legation in the event of serious trouble. It is expected that France and Germany will send marines here to guard their legations.

Russia After Gunners.
London, Jan. 7.—The Shimonoseki Japan, correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing under date of January 6, says that the Germans at Kiao-Chau are supplying the Russians with coal and gunners, and that Admiral Alexieff's agents are offering large sums to induce American and British gunners to desert and go to Port Arthur.

The correspondent adds that Prince Adolphe is reported as predicting, presumably as a price of German good will, that the whole province of Shantung will become German property.

Writing under the same papers, the Tokio correspondent says that the Russian reply to the Japanese proposals has arrived at the Russian legation there, and that it is supposed it has been communicated to Baron Komura, the Japanese foreign minister, at a long conference with Baron de Rosen, the Russian minister, but that nothing is known regarding it.

The correspondent says that according to the Jiji Shimpo, the Korean foreign minister refused to give his consent to the sending of American marines to Seoul, but that he could not make an effective protest.

GENERAL LONGSTREET BURIED.
Thousands Paid Tribute to Memory of Famous Confederate.
Gainesville, Ga., Jan. 7.—Thousands of Georgian citizens former comrades of General James Longstreet, who fought at his side and under his command during the Civil War, state officials and private citizens gathered to pay tribute to his memory, as his remains were consigned to their last resting place.

The funeral services were held in the large courtroom of the county building, and the rites of the Catholic church were conducted by Right Rev. Benjamin J. Kelly, bishop of Savannah, himself a soldier under General Longstreet from 1861 to 1864.

The procession to Alta Vista cemetery, where the interment was made, was delayed by the difficulty in handling the immense crowd that had been unable to gain admittance to the courtroom. The escort included a large number of military organizations, camps of Confederate veterans, Daughters of the Confederacy, officials and citizens. A volley was fired over the grave by a detachment from the Cavalry Horse Guards, taps were sounded and the grave was closed.

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Now. Every Remnant of every sort.
Next week they will be off the floor at almost no price the day we start the sale.

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Big Reductions.
—ON—
Stylish Suits and Coats.

We're first to reduce prices on this season's best style Suits and Wraps, but this is natural, leadership both in methods and values. The reason for these reductions is that we have too many suits and coats for this time of the year, and must reduce stock, and we're doing it a full month earlier than usual.

\$25, \$27 50 and \$30 Suits for \$16 50.

These suits are made of imported Zibelines, fine Cheviots, Camel's Hair, Scotch Heather Mixtures and fancy Bannocksburns. They are of best styles, embracing long and short effects, pleated jackets, the new French frock coat, and some of the latest jaunty English cutaway effects. The jackets are lined with guaranteed satin and taffeta silks to harmonize with the fabric. The skirts are cut in new full flare style. Not a suit that is not reduced from \$25 or more, most of them being \$27.50 and \$30 suits. Choice at

\$16 50.

\$10 and \$12.50 Coats reduced to \$7 95 and \$18.00 Coats reduced to \$12 50.

\$7 95. \$12 50.

Tailor-made Kersey Cloth Jackets, in black, castor and tan, lined throughout with guaranteed satin, all sizes, 32 to 44, reduced from \$10 and \$12.50 to

\$7 95. \$12 50.

Tailor-made Coats and Blouses, in black, castor and tan, lined throughout with guaranteed satin, all sizes, 32 to 44, reduced from \$15 and \$18 to

\$7 95. \$12 50.

Isn't NOW a good time to buy a new suit or wrap? Transportation charges prepaid if your purchases amount to \$5.00 or more and you live within a radius of 100 miles of Washington. Order by mail if you cannot come in person to the store.

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Greatest Sale of the Season.
19c. SALE.
More Goods and Greatest Values ever offered for 19 cents.
Commencing
Thursday, January 14th.
Lasting Three Days
Thursday 14th, Friday 15th, and Saturday 16th.

Dry Goods and Notions. Goods worth from 25 cents to 50 cents at 19 cents. It's our special offering to the trade who have so liberally patronized us during the past year, being the largest in the history of the house, also an inducement to others to become customers of

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Cheapest Dry Goods House in Virginia

I carry the largest and most complete line of

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in Fredericksburg. Six buildings, not including sheds, all full. I carry in stock dressed N. C. and Georgia pine, fir, orange, ceiling, partition, casings and boards any length. Also sash, doors, blinds, mouldings, mantels, columns, brackets, balusters and everything for interior and exterior finish. Laths, lime, plaster, cement and hair, paints, oils, glass, fire clay, sewer pipe, builders' hardware and saw-mill supplies. Prospective buyers and contractors will do well to examine my stock and

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All Work Guaranteed.

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PREVAIL AT THE
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Open evenings until 9 P. M. 814 Main St., Fredericksburg, Va.

Having just returned from the North and secured my selection for a lot of High Grade Tailor made Suits, Pants and Overcoats, having bought the entire stock of the

BALTIMORE CLOTHING MANUFACTURING CO.,
who went into the hands of receivers, I am therefore enabled to put before my patrons and the public in general the above mentioned goods at less than half of manufacturer's price.

Below I quote a few of the Manufacturer's Underselling Prices.

Men's Storm Coats Fifty-two inches long, with high storm collar, all wool, black lining. Manufacturer's price, \$5.50 Underselling price, 2.98	Men's Suits. The latest style goods, Tailor-made, in Cheviots, Flannels, Worsted and Cashmeres, which have been made up to sell at Manufacturer's price, \$4.50 Underselling price, 2.98	Pants. We carry a full line. Range in price from 75c. to \$6.00. Each pair sold guaranteed to be worth double the money.
Reglans In all wool oxfords, farmer-satin lined plush pockets, forty-eight inches long. Manufacturer's price, \$7.50 Underselling price, 4.98	Men's Suits. Double Breasted, Three Button Suits, in a Fancy Stripe, the latest cut. Manufacturer's price, \$7.50 Underselling price, 4.98	Odds and Ends Through the Store. Big reductions in Winter Shoes. Men's Heavy Fleece Lined Underwear from 25c. up.
Reglans. A BETTER GRADE. DIFFERENT COLORS. Manufacturer's price, \$10.50 Underselling price, 5.98	Men's Suits In all Wool, Clay-Worsted, Blue Tailor-made, best trimming. Manufacturer's price, \$8.50 Underselling price, 5.98	Ladies' Silk Finished, Ribbed Underwear, Sold everywhere at 39c. Our price 25c. each.
Men's Overcoats. Blue, Brown, Gray, Black and Mixed colors, Overcoat Raglans and Automobiles, cut in the latest fashion, Silk, Satin, Value or Wool Serge Linings, in Kerseys, Meltons, Tricots, &c. Manufacturer's price, \$15 to \$25.00 Underselling price, 7.98	Finest Thibet Suits, In latest Military Cut Sacks, or Three Button Double-Breasted, fine Trimmed. Manufacturer's price, \$12.50 Underselling price, 9.50	Ladies' Heavy Fleece Lined Underwear, Sold everywhere at \$1.00 a suit. Our price 75c.
Cravenettes. In Gray, Rich Colors, in all sizes, \$15.00; well worth \$25.00.	Youth's Long Pants Suits From \$1.98 to \$5.50. Worth double the amount.	Neckwear. All Colors, Shapes and Makes. 25, 35 and 50c. goods to go at 19c.
Youth's, Boy's and Children's Overcoats AT HALF MANUFACTURER'S PRICE.	Children's Suits, All sizes and ages, from 75c. to \$4.98.	Men's and Ladies' Handkerchiefs at 3c

Don't forget the place, as for the next thirty days we will sell goods as advertised. Come early, select your choice and avoid the rush.

VIRGINIA CLOTHING HOUSE,
H. FALK, Proprietor,
Open evenings until 9 P. M. 814 Main St., Fredericksburg, Va.